

WIKIPEDIA

Jay Inslee

Jay Robert Inslee (/ˈɪnzliː/; born February 9, 1951) is an American politician who has served as the governor of Washington since 2013. A member of the Democratic Party, he served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1993 to 1995 and from 1999 to 2012 and was a presidential candidate in the 2020 election.

Born and raised in Seattle, Inslee graduated from the University of Washington and Willamette University College of Law. He served in the Washington House of Representatives from 1989 to 1993. In 1992, Inslee was elected to represent Washington's 4th congressional district, based around Central Washington, in the U.S. House of Representatives. Defeated for reelection in 1994, Inslee briefly returned to private legal practice. He made his first run for governor of Washington in 1996, coming in fifth in the blanket primary ahead of the general election, which was won by Democrat Gary Locke. Inslee then served as regional director for the United States Department of Health and Human Services under President Bill Clinton.

Inslee returned to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1999, this time for Washington's 1st congressional district. The new district included Seattle's northern suburbs in King County, Snohomish County, and Kitsap County. He was reelected six times before announcing that he would make another run for the governorship in the 2012 election. He resigned from Congress to focus on his campaign. He defeated Republican Rob McKenna, the Attorney General of Washington. Inslee was reelected to a second term in 2016, defeating Republican Seattle Port Commissioner Bill Bryant, 54% to 46%. Inslee served as chair of the Democratic Governors Association for the 2018 election cycle.

As governor, Inslee has emphasized climate change, education and drug policy reform. He has garnered national attention for his critiques of President Donald Trump. Inslee, State Attorney General Bob Ferguson and State Solicitor General Noah Purcell sued the Trump administration over Executive Order 13769, which halted travel for 90 days from seven Muslim-majority countries and imposed a total ban on Syrian refugees entering the United States. The case, *Washington v. Trump*, led to the order being blocked by the courts, and other executive orders later superseded it.

Inslee was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States in the 2020 election, launching his campaign on March 1, 2019. He suspended his campaign on

Jay Inslee



23rd Governor of Washington

Incumbent

Assumed office

January 16, 2013

Lieutenant **Brad Owen**
 Cyrus Habib

Preceded by **Christine Gregoire**

Member of the
U.S. House of Representatives
from Washington's 1st district

In office

January 3, 1999 – March 20, 2012

Preceded by **Rick White**

Succeeded by **Suzan DelBene**

Member of the
U.S. House of Representatives
from Washington's 4th district

In office

January 3, 1993 – January 3, 1995

Preceded by **Sid Morrison**

Succeeded by **Doc Hastings**

Member of the
Washington House of
Representatives
from the 14th district

August 21, citing extremely low poll numbers. The next day, Inslee announced his intention to seek a third term as governor in the 2020 election.

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In office

January 9, 1989 – January 11, 1993

Preceded by Jim Lewis

Succeeded by Dave Lemmon

Personal details

Born	Jay Robert Inslee
	February 9, 1951
	Seattle, Washington, U.S.
Political party	Democratic
Spouse(s)	Trudi Tindall (m. 1972)
Children	3
Residence	Governor's Mansion
Education	University of Washington (BA) <div></div> Willamette University (JD)
Website	Government website (http://governor.wa.gov)

Early life, education, and legal career

Jay Robert Inslee was born February 9, 1951 in Seattle, Washington, the oldest of three sons of Adele A. (née Brown; d. 2007) and Frank E. Inslee (1926–2014). His mother worked as a sales clerk at Sears. His father was a well-known high school counselor and football coach, teaching at [Tenino High School](#), [Garfield High School](#) and [Chief Sealth High School](#). Frank Inslee later became the athletic director for Seattle Public Schools. Inslee is a fifth-generation Washingtonian.^{[1][2]} Inslee describes his family as being of [English](#) and [Welsh](#) descent.^[3]

Inslee attended Seattle's Ingraham High School, where he was an honor-roll student and star athlete, graduating in 1969. He played center on his high school basketball team and was also the starting quarterback on his football team.^[4] Inslee's interest in environmental issues originated at an early age, with his parents leading groups of high school students on trips cleaning Mount Rainier. He met his future wife, Trudi Tindall, at Ingraham during his sophomore year. Graduating at the height of the Vietnam War, Inslee received student deferments from the draft.^{[2][1][5]}

Inslee began college at Stanford University, where he initially intended on studying medicine. After a year, he was forced to drop out because he was unable to get a scholarship.^[4] He returned home and, living in his parents' basement, attended the University of Washington. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics in 1973. He then attended Willamette University School of Law, earning a Juris Doctor in 1976.^{[2][5]}

Inslee and his wife were married on August 27, 1972, and have three sons: Jack, Connor, and Joseph.^{[2][6]} After Inslee finished law school, they moved to Selah, Washington. Inslee joined the law firm Peters, Schmalz, Leadon & Fowler, working as a city prosecutor.^[7] He practiced in Selah for 10 years. He first became politically active in 1985, while advocating for the construction of a new high school. The experience sparked Inslee's interest in politics, emboldening him to run for political office.^{[2][8]}

Washington House of Representatives (1989–1993)

Elections

Inslee ran for the Washington House of Representatives in 1988 after incumbent Republican State Representative Jim Lewis left office.^[9] His opponent, Lynn Carmichael, was the former mayor of Yakima and considered the front-runner in the race. Inslee also struggled to balance his more progressive ideology with the conservative leanings of Central Washington. His campaign attempted to rectify this by emphasizing his rural upbringing and legal experience supporting local average people, farms and businesses. The Washington State Trial Lawyers Association became Inslee's biggest contributor.^[7]

When presented with a potential state budget surplus, Inslee called for a tax cut for the middle class, which Carmichael called irresponsible. Inslee claimed Carmichael had supported a sales tax, which she denied. Inslee was an energetic and active campaigner, benefiting from retail politics.^[7]

In the blanket primary, Carmichael ranked first with 43% and Inslee ranked second with 40%. Republican Glen Blomgren ranked third with 17%.^[10] In the general election, Inslee defeated Carmichael 52%-48%.^[11] In 1990, Inslee was reelected with 62% of the vote against Republican Ted Mellotte.^[12]

Tenure

In the Washington state legislature, Inslee pursued a bill to provide initial funding to build five branch campuses of the Washington State University system. Although the bill failed, his tenacity made an impression on House Speaker Joe King, who said: "He's not afraid to incur the wrath of the speaker or the caucus."^[13] Inslee also focused on preventing steroid usage among high school athletes and pushed for a bill requiring all drivers to carry auto insurance.^[4] In 1991, he voted for a bill that required the state to devise a cost-effective energy strategy and state agencies and school districts to pursue and maintain energy-efficient operations.^[14]

Committee assignments

Inslee served on the Higher Education and Housing Committees.^{[15][16]}

Congress (1993–1995)

Elections

1992

In 1992, six-term incumbent U.S. Representative Sid Morrison chose not to run for reelection representing Washington's 4th congressional district, instead mounting a campaign for governor. Morrison was a popular moderate Republican incumbent who was considered successful and well-liked in the Democratic-controlled Congress.^[17] Despite initially declining to run, Inslee launched a campaign for the open Congressional seat, based in the central-eastern part of the state. His home area of the district, anchored by Yakima, is relatively rural and agriculture-based, while the southeastern part is more focused on research and nuclear waste disposal, anchored by the Tri-Cities. Inslee defeated a favored state senator to win the Democratic primary by 1%. Despite the district's conservative lean, Inslee won the general election in an extremely close race.^{[4][18]}



Inslee during the 103rd Congress

1994

He lost his bid for reelection in the Republican Revolution of 1994 in a rematch against his 1992 opponent, Doc Hastings. Inslee attributed his 1994 defeat in large part to his vote for the Federal Assault Weapons Ban.^[19]

Tenure

In Congress, Inslee passed the Yakima River Enhancement Act,^[20] a bill long held up in Congress, by brokering a breakthrough with irrigators and wildlife advocates. He also helped to open Japanese markets to American apples and to fund and oversee the nation's biggest nuclear waste site at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Richland, Washington.^{[21][22]}

Committee assignments

- United States House Committee on Agriculture
- United States House Committee on Science, Space and Technology^[23]

Inter-congressional years (1995–1999)

Inslee moved to Bainbridge Island, a suburb of Seattle, and briefly resumed the practice of law.^[4]

1996 gubernatorial election

Inslee ran for governor of Washington in 1996, losing in the blanket primary. Democratic King County Executive and former State Representative Gary Locke ranked first with 24% of the vote. Democratic Mayor of Seattle Norm Rice ranked second with 18%, but did not qualify for the general election. Republican State Senator Ellen Craswell ranked third with 15%, and became the Republican candidate in the general election. Republican State Senator and Senate Majority Leader Dale Foreman ranked fourth with 13%. Inslee ranked fifth with 10%. No other candidate on the ballot received double digits.^[24]

After his failed gubernatorial bid, Inslee was appointed regional director for the United States Department of Health and Human Services by then-President Bill Clinton.^[25]

Congress (1999–2012)

Elections

Inslee ran again for Congress in 1998, this time in the 1st congressional district against two-term incumbent Rick White. His campaign attracted national attention when he became the first Democratic candidate to air television ads attacking his opponent and the Republican congressional leadership for the Lewinsky scandal.^{[26][27]} Inslee won with 49.8% of the vote to White's 44.1%; he had an unintentional assist in his successful return by the conservative third-party candidacy of Bruce Craswell, husband of 1996 GOP gubernatorial nominee Ellen Craswell.^{[28][29]}

Inslee was reelected six times. In 2000, he defeated State Senate Minority Leader Dan McDonald in 2000 with 54.6% of the vote. In 2002, Inslee defeated former state representative Joe Marine with 55.6% of the vote after the district was made more Democratic by redistricting. He never faced another contest that close, and was reelected three more times with over 60% of the vote.^{[30][31]}

In July 2003, after Gary Locke announced he would not seek a third term as Washington's governor, Inslee briefly flirted with a gubernatorial bid before deciding to remain in Congress.^[32]

During the 2009-10 campaign cycle, Inslee raised \$1,140,025. In data compiled for the period 2005 to 2007 and excluding individual contributions of less than \$200, 64 percent of Inslee's donations were from outside the state of Washington and 86 percent came from outside his district (compared to 79 percent for the average House member). 43 percent of Inslee's donations came from Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland. The largest interests funding Inslee's campaign were pharmaceutical and health-related companies, lawyers and law firms, and high-tech companies.^{[33][31]}

In 2010 he won by a 15-point margin, with 57.67% of the votes cast in his favor.^[34]

Tenure

As a member of the centrist New Democrat Coalition, Inslee accumulated expertise on high-tech issues and vocally supported policies combating climate change.^{[35][36]}

Inslee was awarded a "Friend of the National Parks" award by the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) in 2001 for his support of legislation protecting the integrity and quality of the National Park System.^[37]

Inslee was "one of Congress's most ardent advocates of strong action to combat global warming," according to *The New York Times*.^[38] He was the first public figure to propose an Apollo-like energy program, in an opinion editorial in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* on December 19, 2002 and a series of similar pieces in other publications.^[39] Inslee co-authored *Apollo's Fire: Igniting America's Clean Energy Economy*, in which he argues that through improved federal policies the United States can wean itself off foreign oil and fossil fuel, create millions of green-collar jobs, and stop global warming. He has been a prominent supporter of the Apollo Alliance.^[40] Inslee strongly believes the Environmental Protection Agency should remain authorized to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. In a 2011 House hearing on the Energy Tax Prevention Act, he said Republicans have "an allergy to science and scientists" during a discussion of whether the regulation of greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act should remain in place following a controversial court finding on the issue.^[41]



Jay Inslee and his wife Trudi Inslee met with the Dalai Lama in 2008.

Inslee was an outspoken critic of the George W. Bush administration's 2003 invasion of Iraq. On July 31, 2007, he introduced legislation calling for an inquiry to determine whether then United States Attorney General Alberto Gonzales should be impeached. Gonzales eventually resigned.^[42]

Still an avid basketball player and fan, Inslee identified as a member of "Hoopaholics", a charity group dedicated to "treatment of old guys addicted to basketball and who can no longer jump", as Inslee has often joked.^[43] In October 2009, he played basketball at the White House in a series of games featuring members of Congress on one team and members of the administration, including President Obama, on the other.^[44]

Inslee voted for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the federal health care law.^[45]

In 2011, Inslee voted in favor of authorizing the use of U.S. armed forces in the 2011 Libyan civil war and against limiting the use of funds to support NATO's 2011 military intervention in Libya.^[46]

Inslee was once touted as a candidate for United States Secretary of the Interior and for United States Secretary of Energy during the Presidential transition of Barack Obama.^{[47][48]}

On March 20, 2012, Inslee left Congress to focus on his campaign for governor of Washington.^[49]

Committee assignments

- United States House Committee on Energy and Commerce**
 - United States House Energy Subcommittee on Energy and Power

Caucus memberships

- Congressional Friends of Animals Caucus
- Congressional Internet Caucus
- House Medicare and Medicaid Fairness Caucus
- House Oceans Caucus
- United States Congressional International Conservation Caucus
- Congressional Arts Caucus

- Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition

Governor of Washington (2013–present)

2012 gubernatorial election

On June 27, 2011, Inslee announced his candidacy for governor of Washington.^[50] His campaign focused on job creation, outlining dozens of proposals to increase job growth in clean energy, the aerospace industry, and biotechnology. He also supported a ballot measure to legalize gay marriage, which passed, and opposed tax increases.^[51] He won election with 51% of the vote, a three-point margin over his Republican opponent, Rob McKenna.^[52]

2016 gubernatorial election

In December 2015, Inslee announced on Washington's public affairs TV channel TVW that he would run for a second term as governor. He emphasized increased spending on transportation and education as his primary first-term accomplishment, though he had struggled to work with the Republican-controlled Majority Coalition Caucus in the State Senate.^[53]

In the general election Inslee faced former Port of Seattle Commissioner Bill Bryant. The primary issues of the campaign were climate change, job creation, minimum wage, and capital gains taxes. Inslee far outraised Bryant,^{[54][53][55]} and was reelected in November with 54% of the vote.^{[54][56][55]}

2020 gubernatorial election

On March 1, 2019, Inslee announced he would run for president, but kept open the possibility of running for a third term if his presidential campaign failed. Several potential Democratic gubernatorial candidates, including state Attorney General Bob Ferguson, Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz, and King County Executive Dow Constantine, were all waiting to announce campaigns until Inslee made his decision.^[57] As Inslee's presidential campaign failed to gain traction during the summer of 2019, he was pressured to drop out and make his gubernatorial plans clear to the other potential candidates.^[58] On August 21, 2019, Inslee dropped out of the presidential campaign and announced the next day he would run for reelection as governor.^{[59][60][61]}

As of January 2020, Inslee's major opponents in the election are State Senator Phil Fortunato; Republic, Washington police chief Loren Culp; and former Bothell mayor Joshua Freed.^{[62][63]}

First term: 2013–2017

During the 2013 session, the legislature failed to create a fiscal budget plan during the initial session, and Inslee was forced to call two special sessions to provide time for a budget to be created. The Republican-controlled Senate and Democratic-controlled House each passed its own budget and could not agree on one.^[64] Finally, in June 2013, Inslee signed a \$33.6 billion budget to which both houses had agreed as a compromise. The budget increased funding for education by \$1 billion. It also adjusted property taxes and tax breaks in order to increase state revenue by \$1 billion.^[65]

On June 13, 2013, Inslee signed an additional estate tax into law. The tax had bipartisan support, and passed the Senate, 30–19.^[66]



Inslee giving a speech regarding Boeing in May 2013

In December 2013, Inslee was elected to serve as finance chair of the Democratic Governors Association.^[67]

In January 2014, Inslee gave a speech commending machinists who voted to renew Boeing's contract with Seattle area union employees, allowing the company to build its Boeing 777x aircraft in Everett. He said the contract would bring Washington to a new industrial plateau and be a turning point for Washington jobs:

These jobs are in the thousands and it is not only on the 777X, the first model of the 777X, but all the subsequent derivative models as well.

The plan was to prevent Boeing from building part of the aircraft in Washington and part of it elsewhere, as they did with the Boeing 787, which was partially constructed in South Carolina.^{[68][69]}

On February 11, 2014, Inslee announced a moratorium on executions in Washington:

There have been too many doubts raised about capital punishment, there are too many flaws in this system today. There is too much at stake to accept an imperfect system.

Inslee cited the high cost of pursuing the death penalty, the randomness with which it is sought, and the lack of evidence that it is a deterrent.^{[70][71]}

Second term: 2017–present

Inslee began his second term in January 2017, proposing full funding of state education (in compliance with the McCleary decision) and addressing mental health needs while also raising worker pay.^[72] After newly inaugurated President Donald Trump signed an executive order on January 27 banning people from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States, Inslee and Attorney General Bob Ferguson announced their intention to sue Trump, alleging his order was unconstitutional. The civil action, *Washington v. Trump*, was filed on January 30 and on February 3 successfully earned a temporary restraining order to forbid federal enforcement of some of the ban's provisions.^{[73][74]} An appeal and request to stay filed by the federal government was subsequently denied by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Inslee and Ferguson declared victory over Trump on February 16, after his administration announced it would revise the travel ban to comply with the court decisions.^[75] Inslee garnered national media attention during the lawsuit.^[76]

During the 2017 legislative session, the Washington State Legislature failed to pass a state operating budget by the end of its regular session on April 25, so Inslee called for a 30-day special session. The legislature again failed to pass a budget during that session, forcing Inslee to call a third one, beginning

June 22. As the state's fiscal year ends on June 30, a partial government shutdown was feared.^[77] Conflict over resource allocation between rural areas and urban areas was a major reason for the impasse. The State Senate passed a budget on June 30 and Inslee signed it into law shortly after 11 pm. Its specifics were still being released several hours after it was enacted. Lawmakers critiqued the haste with which the budget was considered and passed, having received the 616-page document only that day.^[78] By the end of the third session on July 20, the legislature had still failed to pass a capital budget concerning long-term goals and improvements.^[79] This was the third time during Inslee's tenure the state's budget was passed in the last week of the legislative session.^[80]

In December 2017 Inslee awarded \$6.4 million in grant funding for apprenticeships and career connections to 29,000 youth in 11 communities.^[81] He called this initiative Career Connect Washington (<https://careerconnectwa.org/>). It includes a Task Force and several prominent stakeholder groups including Alaska Airlines, Amazon, Boeing, Microsoft, and Kaiser Permanente. Career Connect Washington has established new apprenticeship opportunities, including the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (<https://www.thenewtribune.com/news/local/education/article143777889.html>)'s registered Youth Apprenticeship program for high school students.^{[82][83]}

Inslee served as chair of the Democratic Governors Association for the 2018 election cycle,^[84] in which Democrats gained seven net governorships nationwide.^[85]

In December 2018, Inslee announced new legislation aimed at reducing the state's carbon emissions over approximately two decades. It would effectively require Washington utilities to end the use of fossil fuels by mid-century, making Washington "adopt a clean fuel standard", "promote electric and low-emission vehicles", and "provide incentives to renovate existing buildings to reduce" emissions.^[86]

In January 2019, Inslee said he would provide an expedited process for approximately 3,500 people convicted of small-time cannabis possession to apply for and receive pardons.^[87]

In March and April 2020, Inslee ordered significant social distancing measures statewide, including banning large events, a stay-at-home order, and the closing of all schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic.^[88]

On June 8, 2020, in the wake of protests over police brutality, a group of protesters established the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone (also known as the Zone or the CHAZ) in Seattle.^[89] The Zone prides itself on offering free food and being free of police.^[90] President Donald Trump condemned the Zone, saying that Seattle had been taken over by anarchists, and called on Inslee and the mayor of Seattle to "take back" the neighborhood from protesters.^[91] Inslee responded that he was unaware of the Zone's existence, but called on Trump to "stay out of Washington State's business".^{[92][93]}

2020 presidential campaign

Throughout 2018, speculation rose that Inslee might run for President of the United States in the 2020 election. He garnered national attention because of Washington v. Trump, a lawsuit challenging the Trump Administration's order to ban people from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States.^{[94][76]} While Inslee was chair of the Democratic Governors Association, Democrats gained seven net governorships in the 2018 gubernatorial elections, further propelling him into the national spotlight and fueling speculation that he would run.^[85] Inslee cited climate change as his primary motivation for running, strongly criticizing the Trump Administration's policies.^[95]

In January 2019, reports surfaced that Inslee was beginning to form an exploratory committee, the first step in a campaign.^{[96][97][98]} Inslee was a dark-horse candidate; initially, he was rarely included in polling for the primary, was not well known outside Washington, and made few trips to early primary states such as Iowa and New Hampshire. But he pointed to former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, calling them "pretty much unknown governors of small states" and adding, "this is a wide-open field. No one has a lock on this. No one has a total crystal ball as to what the nation wants."^[95]

Inslee announced his candidacy for president on March 1, 2019, saying he would focus on combating climate change.^[99] His campaign requested a debate focused on climate change. The Democratic National Committee denied the request, but 53 of its voting members wrote an open letter protesting that decision.^{[100][101]}

Facing poor polling numbers and seeing no path to victory, Inslee announced the suspension of his campaign on *The Rachel Maddow Show* on August 21, 2019,^{[102][103]} and announced the following day that he would run for a third term as governor in the 2020 election.^[60] Inslee endorsed Joe Biden for the presidency on April 22, 2020.^[104]

Electoral history



Inslee declaring his candidacy for president



Date	Position	Status	Opponent	Result	Vote share	Opponent vote share
1988	WA Representative	Open seat		Elected		
1990	WA Representative	Incumbent		Re-elected		
1992	U.S. Representative	Open seat	Doc Hastings (R)	Elected	51%	49%
1994	U.S. Representative	Incumbent	Doc Hastings (R)	Defeated	47%	53%
1996	WA Governor	Open seat primary	Gary Locke (D), others	Defeated	10%	
1998	U.S. Representative	Challenger	Rick White (R)	Elected	50%	44%
2000	U.S. Representative	Incumbent	Dan McDonald (R)	Re-elected	55%	43%
2002	U.S. Representative	Incumbent	Joe Marine (R)	Re-elected	56%	41%
2004	U.S. Representative	Incumbent	Randy Eastwood (R)	Re-elected	62%	36%
2006	U.S. Representative	Incumbent	Larry W. Ishmael (R)	Re-elected	68%	32%
2008	U.S. Representative	Incumbent	Larry W. Ishmael (R)	Re-elected	68%	32%
2010	U.S. Representative	Incumbent	James Watkins (R)	Re-elected	57%	43%
2012	WA Governor	Open seat	Rob McKenna (R)	Elected	51%	49%
2016	WA Governor	Incumbent	Bill Bryant (R)	Re-elected	54%	46%

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External links

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- Jay Inslee for Governor (<https://jayinslee.com/>) campaign website
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- Biography (<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=I000026>) at the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*
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U.S. House of Representatives

Preceded by Sid Morrison	Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Washington's 4th congressional district 1993–1995	Succeeded by Doc Hastings
Preceded by Rick White	Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Washington's 1st congressional district 1999–2012	Succeeded by Suzan DelBene

Party political offices

Preceded by Christine Gregoire	Democratic nominee for Governor of Washington 2012, 2016, 2020	Most recent
Preceded by Dan Malloy	Chair of the Democratic Governors Association 2017–2018	Succeeded by Gina Raimondo

Political offices

Preceded by Christine Gregoire	Governor of Washington 2013–present	Incumbent
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U.S. order of precedence (ceremonial)

Preceded by Mike Pence <i>as Vice President</i>	Order of Precedence of the United States Within Washington	Succeeded by Mayor of city in which event is held
		Succeeded by Otherwise Nancy Pelosi <i>as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives</i>
Preceded by Steve Bullock <i>as Governor of Montana</i>	Order of Precedence of the United States Outside Washington	Succeeded by Brad Little <i>as Governor of Idaho</i>

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